

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02514 300746Z

13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 VO-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INSE-00 SCA-01 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

H-03 DRC-01 IO-14 /104 W

----- 109187

R 291256Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2329

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2514

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION

REF: MOSCOW 5775, 5843

SUMMARY: RECENT PRESS STORIES REPORT SOME IMPROVEMENT IN ISSUANCE OF EXIT VISAS TO SOVIET JEWS IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD AND ALSO DESCRIBE DISCONTENT WITH CONDITIONS IN ISRAEL AS DETERRING FACTOR IN EMIGRATION. JEWISH AGENCY REPORTEDLY CHARGES RATE OF EMIGRATION DETERMINED SOLELY BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES WITH DISCONTENT MARGINAL FACTOR IN RECENT DROP IN EMIGRATION. HOWEVER, CONDITIONS IN ISRAEL FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS COULD STAND IMPROVEMENT IF THEY ARE NOT TO BECOME MORE TROUBLESOME ISSUE IN SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION. END SUMMARY.

1. RECENT NEWSPAPER REPORTS IN ISRAEL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO REGARDING ISSUANCE OF EMIGRANT PERMITS TO SOVIET JEWS AND ATTITUDES OF SOVIET JEWRY TOWARD EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL, AS REPORTED REFTELS.

2. ACCORDING TO IMMIGRANTS RECENTLY INTERVIEWED ON FLIGHT FROM VIENNA TO TEL AVIV BY ISRAELI JOURNALIST ELIYAHU SALPETER, AS REPORTED IN APRIL 26 HAARETZ, A CERTAIN CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE RE ISSUANCE OF EXIT PERMITS. IT IS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02514 300746Z

STILL MUCH EASIER TO OBTAIN A PERMIT IN THE "NEW TERRITORIES"

JOINED TO SOVIET UNION AFTER WORLD WAR II THAN IN "OLD REPUBLICS." BUT IN TWO BIG CITIES, MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD, REQUESTS ARE DEALT WITH SPEEDILY AND GENERALLY POSITIVELY. IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN EXIT PERMITS WITHIN TWO MONTHS. ON OTHER HAND, OLD REQUESTS NOT GRANTED IN PAST ARE STILL FROZEN, WITH NO EXPLANATION.

3. RE DROP IN EMIGRATION IN RECENT MONTHS, SEVERAL EMIGRANTS TOLD SALPETER THAT FEAR OF WAR IS FACTOR. BUT MAIN REASON IS NEGATIVE INFO SOVIET JEWS HAVE ABOUT CONDITIONS IN ISRAEL. THERE ARE COMPLAINTS ABOUT HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT, AND SOVIET MEDIA EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ASPECTS OF LIFE IN ISRAEL. A MAJOR COMPLAINT HEARD FROM SOVIET IMMIGRANTS CONCERNS THEIR TREATMENT BY VETERAN ISRAELIS.

4. IMMIGRANTS INTERVIEWED BY SALPETER ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE SOME 100,000 REQUESTS TO EMIGRATE YET TO BE APPROVED. THEY BELIEVE THE NUMBER WILL RISE BECAUSE JEWS RECENTLY HAVE ENCOUNTERED MORE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING GOOD POSITIONS AND BEING PROMOTED.

5. SALPETER ALSO NOTED THAT RECENT SURVEY BY GOI MINISTRY OF ABSORPTION FOUND 30 PERCENT OF SOVIET IMMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL FEELING THAT THEY TOOK "CONSIDERABLE DEOP" IN LIVING STANDARDS-- A FACT, SALPETER ADDED, DIFFICULT FOR MANY ISRAELIS TO BELIEVE.

6. IN ARTICLE IN APRIL 22 DAVAR, ISRAELI JOURNALIST YEHOSHUA TADMOR ASCRIBED THE MAIN REASON FOR RECENT DROP IN IMMIGRATION FROM SOVIET UNION TO HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, SHOOTING IN ISRAEL MAY MAKE JEWS IN SOVIET UNION THINK TWICE ABOUT EMIGRATING TO ISRAEL, HE ADDED, PARTICULARLY AS IDEALISTICALLY MOTIVATED IMMIGRATION" HAS MORE OR LESS COME TO END. TO ALTER ATTITUDE OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES, TADMOR URGED INTENSIVE PUBLIC OPINION CAMPAIGN, TO WHICH SOVIET GOVT IN PAST HAS PROVED SENSITIVE.

7. OFFICIAL GOI AND JEWISH AGENCY POSITION AS REPORTED IN PRESS OVER PAST MONTH DISCOUNTS DISCONTENT WITH CONDITIONS IN ISRAEL AS MAJOR FACTOR IN DROP IN EMIGRATION DURING PAST THREE MONTHS. JEWISH AGENCY OFFICIAL, IN PRESS INTERVIEW REPORTED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 02514 300746Z

MARCH 26 JERUSALEM POST, CHARGED "FOOT DRAGGING BY SOVIET OFFICIALDOM" AS PRIMARY REASON FOR DECLINE, POSSIBLY AS SOVIET WARNING THAT CONDITIONS ON TRADE WITH US, SUCH AS IMPOSED BY JACKSON AMENDMENT, COULD HAVE OPPOSITE EFFECT TO THAT ENVISAGED BY PROPONENTS.

8. COMMENT: WHILE WE AGREE THAT RATE OF EMIGRATION CONTROLLED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES FOR TACTICAL REASONS RELATING

MAINLY TO SOVIET RELATIONS WITH US, ISRAELI ARE HAVING INCREAS-
INGLY DIFFICULT TIME PROVIDING ADEQUATE HOUSING AND SUITABLE
EMPLOYMENT TO SOVIET IMMIGRANTS. HOUSING PROBLEM IS PARTICU-
LARLY DIFFICULT DUE GROWING DEMAND BY YOUNG ISRAELIS AND SHORTAGE
OF MANPOWER AND MATERIAL IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. PROGRAM
FOR SETTLING SOVIET IMMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL NEEDS SUBSTANTIAL
IMPROVEMENT IF GROWING NUMBER OF EMIGRATING SOVIET JEWS ARE
NOT TO REAGRD ISRAEL AS TRANSITIONAL STEP, AND IF
SOVIETS ARE TO BE DEPRIVED OF EXPLOITING DISCONTENT IN
ISRAEL IN DISCOURAGING EMIGRATION OR CITING IT AS
EXPLANATION FOR REDUCED EMIGRATION.
KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, EMIGRANTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV02514
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740102-0614
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974044/aaaaadqa.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 5775, 5843
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, SREF, IS, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005